

Whereas, 31 years after the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, some telecommunication, electronic, and information technologies continue to be developed without the goal of full accessibility and inclusion for all people of the United States; and

Whereas, 31 years after the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, many businesses, public and private organizations, transportation systems, and services are still not accessible to all individuals with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of independent living for individuals with disabilities made possible by the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.);

(2) encourages all people of the United States to celebrate the advancement of inclusion and equality of opportunity made possible by the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

(3) pledges to continue to work on a bipartisan basis to identify and address the remaining barriers that undermine the national goals of equality of opportunity, independent living, economic self-sufficiency, and full participation for individuals with disabilities, including by focusing on individuals with disabilities that remain segregated in institutions;

(4) pledges to work with States to improve access to home- and community-based services for individuals with disabilities;

(5) calls on the Department of Labor to provide information, resources, and technical assistance that enable individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency; and

(6) calls on the Department of Health and Human Services to provide information, resources, and technical assistance regarding home- and community-based services and supports that enable individuals with disabilities to live independently.

SENATE RESOLUTION 349—HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE RITCHIE BOYS

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 349

Whereas, in 1942, the Federal Government ordered that a Maryland National Guard Training Ground be turned into a War Department Military Intelligence Training Center, which was named Camp Ritchie after the late Governor, Albert C. Ritchie;

Whereas, starting in 1942, more than 19,000 men trained at Camp Ritchie in Maryland and became known as the Ritchie Boys;

Whereas, while the approximately 2,800 refugees who had fled Nazi persecution in Germany and Austria and had come to the United States as “enemy aliens” prior to the entry of the United States into World War II only constituted approximately 14 percent of the total number of Ritchie Boys, they had the strongest motivation to return to Europe and fight for their newly adopted country;

Whereas the Ritchie Boys included—

(1) soldiers of many faiths (including Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic soldiers);

(2) both soldiers born in the United States and foreign-born soldiers from more than 70 countries;

(3) soldiers with German, Japanese (Nisei), and other language skills; and

(4) more importantly, soldiers with general intelligence skills suitable for being trained

as order-of-battle specialists, counterintelligence operatives, photo interpreters, psychological warfare experts, and other specialists;

Whereas, during World War II, Ritchie Boys were assigned to every unit of the Army and the Marines as well as to the Office of Strategic Services and the Counter Intelligence Corps;

Whereas, starting in 1942, the Ritchie Boys were sent as individual specialists to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (“SHAEF”) in small elite teams to join combat units in the North African, Mediterranean, European, and Pacific theaters and to military camps, prisoner-of-war camps, and interrogation centers (such as Fort Hunt, VA) in the United States;

Whereas the Ritchie Boys accompanied the Army on D-Day in Europe as foot soldiers with all Army divisions and as paratroopers with all airborne divisions and were often selected to be the second soldier to land after the commander in order to provide needed immediate interpretation in languages such as French, German, and Italian;

Whereas the Ritchie Boys served as personal interpreters for General George Patton and other military leaders;

Whereas the Ritchie Boys served honorably in the Pacific in the assaults on Guadalcanal, Okinawa, Iwo Jima, and the Philippines, including 2 Marine Corps Ritchie Boys who died in the initial landing on Iwo Jima and a Ritchie Boy who was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for bravery;

Whereas about 140 Ritchie Boys lost their lives during World War II;

Whereas the Ritchie Boys garnered more than 65 Silver Star Medals and numerous Bronze Star Medals as well as at least 5 Legion of Honor and many Croix de Guerre Medals;

Whereas, among the 150-man Second Mobile Radio Broadcast Company of the Ritchie Boys, 6 members received the Croix de Guerre Medal and at least 15 received Bronze Star Medals for service and bravery;

Whereas the Ritchie Boys made significant contributions to the success of the Allied Forces on the Western Front through their knowledge and their skills, as demonstrated by a classified postwar report by the Army finding that the Ritchie Boys were the source of nearly 60 percent of the credible intelligence gathered in Europe during World War II;

Whereas many of the Ritchie Boys continued to serve their country following the conclusion of World War II, including through service as translators or interrogators prosecuting war criminals with the Judge Advocate General’s Office during trials at Dachau and Nuremberg;

Whereas the Ritchie Boys include such notable figures as David Rockefeller, Archibald Roosevelt Jr., William Sloane Coffin, Philip Johnson, J.D. Salinger, and William Warfield, as well as Senators John Chafee of Rhode Island and Frank Church of Idaho, and the father of the current senior Senator from Oregon, Ron Wyden;

Whereas the Ritchie Boys also contributed outside of the military through careers as writers, artists, architects, academics, diplomats, economists, financiers, philanthropists, and psychologists;

Whereas, because the roles of the Ritchie Boys remained classified for decades, the public generally lacks awareness of their contributions;

Whereas Camp Ritchie closed in 1998, and a museum and educational center is now being planned for the location; and

Whereas, approximately 200 Ritchie Boys are still living, ranging in age between 95 and 107: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the bravery and dedication of the Ritchie Boys;

(2) recognizes the importance of their contributions to the success of the Allied Forces during World War II; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to Mr. Landon Grove of the Ritchie History Museum.

SENATE RESOLUTION 350—RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTRY OF MISSOURI—THE “SHOW ME STATE”—INTO THE UNION AS THE 24TH STATE

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 350

Whereas the 200th anniversary of the entry of Missouri into the Union as the 24th State marks a time for Missourians and all people of the United States to remember the past and celebrate the future, including recognizing the significant contributions of the State of Missouri to the culture, governance, and intellect of the United States;

Whereas Congress and President James Monroe approved statehood and entry into the Union for the Missouri Territory on August 10, 1821, making it the Nation’s 24th State and the “Gateway to the West”;

Whereas the City of Jefferson, lying on the Missouri River, was named the Missouri State capital in 1821 for President Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States;

Whereas the State served as the “Gateway to the West”, symbolized by the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, representing a new beginning for so many people in the United States and marking the beginning for Lewis and Clark, the Pony Express, the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails, and individuals venturing West to test their luck in the Gold Rush;

Whereas, despite the State’s role in some dark moments in the history of the United States, Missouri proves that we can have a brighter future, as evidenced by the fact that as commander of the District of South-eastern Missouri, General Ulysses S. Grant utilized the Mississippi River to combat Confederate forces, and Francis Preston Blair, Jr., who later became a United States Senator, fought for the Union and organized the protection of Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, which contributed to the Confederate defeat in Missouri;

Whereas General John Pershing, born in Laclede, Missouri, was president and first captain of the West Point class of 1886, became a 5-star general and commander of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) during World War I and served as the Chief of Staff of the United States Army from 1921 to 1924;

Whereas Missouri is the birthplace of President Harry S. Truman, the 33rd President, who—

(1) served as a captain in World War I, a United States Senator, and Vice President before succeeding President Franklin D. Roosevelt;

(2) oversaw the end of World War II and rocketed the United States to the international stage through his foreign policy, including the founding of the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (“NATO”) and the recognition of Israel; and

(3) promoted the advancement of civil rights by desegregating the United States